

Declaration of Independence

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Overall Goal for the Lesson:

The overall goal for the lesson is to give the students an overall understanding of the Declaration of Independence, as well as actively engage in classroom learning.

Description of classroom, grade level, and students:

22 fifth grade students. The ages range from 10-11 years olds. Students are on a fifth grade level, except for two students. One student has ADHD and one student has dyslexia.

Student Objectives for the lesson:

After learning about the American Revolution until the Declaration of Independence, and spending 3-5 days focusing and studying the Declaration of Independence, the students will participate actively in a game of Jeopardy and will also be able to answer 20/25 questions correct on a quiz over the Declaration of Independence.

Length of Lesson:

The Lesson will last approximately 3-5 days.

Schedule of Activities:

Day 1: What is the Declaration of Independence and why was it necessary? (Present a brief history of the events leading up to the Declaration of Independence and why it was needed.

- Teacher will initially ask students about their past knowledge about the Declaration of Independence, the students will brainstorm ideas.
- Teacher will confirm or deny ideas from the brainstorming activity with the students through a PowerPoint presentation.
- A copy of the Declaration of Independence will be given to the students to familiarize themselves with what exactly it states.

Day 2: Who were the people of the Declaration of Independence?

- Present the students with a list of all the men that signed the Declaration of Independence, narrow the list down to those key participants.
- Separate the class into thirteen groups, assign them each a colony. Give them laptops and links that are allowed to visit, and ask them to find who signed from each colony and basic information about each "Signer." If no one signed from the colony, ask them to explain why with specific reasons.

Day 3: Classroom Independence

- As a class, have the students write their own Declaration of Independence for their class on postal paper, using the Declaration of Independence as an outline. Compare and contrast the two documents.

Day 4: Jeopardy

- Separate the class into teams, and play Jeopardy using the SmartBoard. The students can either call out their category or throw a soft ball on the board to randomly select their question.

PASS Content Standards Addressed:

3. Identify and interpret the basic ideals expressed in the Declaration of Independence (e.g., "all men are created equal" and "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness").

PASS Instructional Technology Standards:**Standard 3: The student will demonstrate knowledge of technology productivity tools.**

1. Use content-specific tools, software, and simulations (e.g., environmental probes, graphing calculators, exploratory environments, Web tools) to support learning and research.
2. Apply productivity/multimedia tools and peripherals to support personal productivity, group collaboration, and learning throughout the curriculum.

Assessments: How will these activities be assessed?

The students will be given a question only version of the Jeopardy game, they are to be able to answer 20/25 of the questions correctly.

Accommodations: How might the lesson need to be adapted for students with special needs?

For students with ADHD, maybe allocate this student to throw the soft ball on the SmartBoard or click on the chosen topic and number for Jeopardy. For the student with Dyslexia, make sure to read aloud questions, directions, etc. Place the students in groups that are best suitable for their exceptionality, this way they can be assisted by their peers and included.

Materials Needed: Go through each activity and identify what items (both technology and not) are needed to complete this lesson. Include a breakdown according to individual student or student groups. Include materials that need to be created as well.

- Paper
- Pencil
- SmartBoard
- Laptops
- Large sheet of postal paper